Woman held for using forged Passport

2219. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the "Indian Express" of the 2nd August, 1995 under the caption, "Woman held for using forged Passport";

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) under what circumstances a diplomatic passport was issued and used by the said woman and how the fraud was detected;

(d) what are the details of fraud cases which came to Government's notice in the issue of passports by each Passport Office in the country and particularly in northern India, during the year 1993-94 and so far in 1995; and

(e) what action Government have taken so far in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) On the night of 5-6 May, 1995 a lady named Surender Monga was arrested at Indira Gandhi International Airport while trying to leave for USA on Diplomatic Passport No. D-121191 issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 26th April 1995 in the name of Smt. Shail Devi, wife of Shri Ram Sharan Yadav, M.P., Lok Sabha. The passport contained the photo of Surender Monga who was impersonating as Shail Devi. The impersonation was detected by Immigration authorities on the basis of information provided by the US Embassy in New Delhi and a case was registered against her.

The Diplomatic Passport was issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on a request by Shri Ram Sharan Yadav, M.P., for his wife Smt. Shail Devi. The photo to be affixed on the passport was attested by Shri R.S. Yadav and the application form forwarded by the Legislative Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat. As per practice, the passport was issued without any police verification.

(d) According to available information, instances where passports were issued illegally in connivance with passport officials are as follows:—

1. 1993 — 1
2. 1994 — 11
3. 1995 — 5

(e) In many of these cases investigating agencies have already initiated proceedings against the officials. In cases of proven guilt, penalities in accordance with the rules have been imposed.

Complaint against Telecom Department of Assam in Consumer Courts

2220. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints in Consumer Courts received against the Telecommunication Department in Assam;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Telecommunication Department has not agreed to reply or redress the grievances; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The number of complaints received from Consumer Courts as on 7.8.95 is 546.

(b) Every effort is made take timely action to redress the grievances.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Deterioration in Services of MTNL

2221. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the write-up appearing in the Hindustan Times beginning 23rd